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PREPARATIONS CONTINUE FOR CARRYING OUT LAND REFORM

Recent regulations issued by the East China Military and Administrative Committee are intended to check violations by landlords who try to reduce their holdings by devious methods or who carry out wanton destruction before the land-reform program starts. Punishments range from one year at hard labor to death.

Provision is made for absentee landowners, regardless of class, to register their lands with the local rural authorities, without returning to the area themselves, by furnishing pertinent information by mail.

Land reform is to be carried out in 1950-51 in large areas of Shensi, Kansu, and Ningxia.

EAST CHINA MAC ISSUES REGULATIONS -- Shanghai, Hsin-wen Jih-pao, 13 Oct 50

Since the promulgation of the National Land-Reform Law, there have been numerous cases of landlords in East China secretly transferring land and destroying equipment, timber, etc. The East China MAC (Military and Administrative Committee) has, therefore, issued the following provisional regulations, as of 19 September 1950, for dealing with such landlords.

1. These regulations are based on the 32d and 33d provisions of the National Land-Reform Law.
2. These regulations shall be followed in handling all cases of violations by landlords not otherwise provided for in the provisions of the Land-Reform Law.
3. Punishment shall be by sentences of up to one year of hard labor for proven cases of the following nature:

a. Secret transfer of land by sale, mortgage, gift, false sale, false mortgage, or false division of family property to conceal ownership.

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b. Withdrawal of land from rent or reduction of living quarters to the detriment of the cultivators during the rent reduction period.

c. Selling building.

d. Felling timber.

e. Slaughter or starving to death of work animals.

f. Destruction of farming equipment or crops.

g. Deliberately allowing land to go untilled.

4. Punishment shall be from one to 5 years of hard labor for proven cases of the following nature:

a. Rumormongering to deceive the people or to create disorder.

b. Taking advantage of the agricultural associations to effect an illegal division of land or to monopolize political power.

c. Creating dissension among the people or between religious organizations which results in harm to property or persons.

d. Attempting bribery by any means.

e. Attempting to deprive cultivators of land already distributed to them by threat, offer of profit, or direct disposition.

5. Punishment shall be death or hard labor for more than 10 years for proven cases of the following nature:

a. Organization of armed forces or collusion with KMT armed partisans to murder peasants, or inflict any other injury to the interests of the farmers.

b. Employment of feudal superstitions to create disorder and do harm to the persons or interests of the peasants.

c. Attack from ambush and serious injury or secret assassination of peasants or laborers.

d. Violence or arson involving destruction of buildings, foodstuffs, timber, or water conservancy projects with damage of persons or property of peasants.

e. Stirring up the people to violence in order to intimidate and interfere with popular movements, resulting in death to persons or heavy damage to property.

6. Voluntary accomplices in the above-named crimes may be sentenced to from one to 10 years of hard labor. Involuntary accomplices (compelled to participate by violence or trickery) shall be dealt with according to circumstances. They may be sentenced to hard labor up to one year or to be re-educated.

7. Violators of Provision "a" of Regulation No 3 above, in addition to the treatment stipulated, shall be dealt with according to Provision 8 of the Land-Reform Law.

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Violators of Provision "b" of Regulation 3 and Provision "e" of Regulation 4, in addition to their punishment, shall make restitution in full and pay damages.

Those who violate the Provisions "c" and "g" of Regulation 3, in addition to punishment, shall make restitution for all damages.

8. In the cases of Regulations 1 and 4, where the provisions have not all been violated, after careful investigation into the circumstances and reasons for nonviolation, some diminution of sentence may be made or re-education may be ordered.

9. Violators of Regulations 3 and 4, who voluntarily confess their crimes and repent before investigation is made by the authorities, may secure a reduction or remission of sentence according to the circumstances.

10. Violators of Regulation 5 who confess the matter before investigation by the authorities, turn in their weapons, and manifest sincere repentance and reform, according to the circumstances and the extent of their awakening, may receive reduction or complete remission of sentence.

11. Any person who, having received the above-mentioned leniency, is guilty of repeating the offense shall be punished with much greater severity.

12. Any person may report secretly and present evidence to the authorities on any case of violation of the above regulations by landlords. If the evidence in such reports proves unreliable, no further investigation shall be made unless it appears there was malice in the matter, in which case the accuser is liable to punishment.

13. Hsien courts or branch courts shall have jurisdiction in cases arising under these regulations. However, sentences involving death or more than 5 years of hard labor, before being carried out, must be approved by the provincial or regional governments or by a Special Administrative Commissioner appointed by them. Sentences of less than 5 years or cases of lessening or remission of sentences shall be approved by the hsien authorities.

14. These regulations shall be in effect from the day of publication. Interpretations and revisions may be made only by the East China MAC.

LANDLORDS DELIBERATELY VIOLATE LAND-REFORM LAW -- Nanking, Hsin-hua Jih-pao, 23 Oct 50

Peiping, 21 October (Hsin-hua) -- Since the promulgation of the Land-Reform Law there has been a rash of violations of its provisions by landlords in areas where the reforms have not yet been carried out. During the past 3 months these violations have been particularly numerous in Central and South China and East China.

Cases of bribery or attempted bribery of land-reform cadres with money, women, or presents of land have been frequent. Fraudulent division of land among relatives has appeared in many places. In South Kiangsu, one landlord registered more than 600 mou (one mou equals 1/6 acre) of his land in the names of various relatives, retaining only 10-odd mou in his own name.

Among the other most important violations have been damage to buildings and secret sales of equipment and grain. Land sales are reported from North Kiangsu, Hunan, and Chekiang.

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In one hsieh in Hunan, after a landlord had been stopped by the local agricultural association from selling his work animals, he poisoned them. Others crippled their animals by various means and then slaughtered them. In South Anhwei, an abattoir bought over 60 work animals from landlords for slaughtering.

In South Kiangsu, one landlord put caustic soda and gypsum into his paddy fields to ruin them.

In South Kiangsu and Hunan, tens of thousands of pine, fir, and bamboo trees have been wantonly felled by landlords. In other cases, fires have been set in forests, burning over hundreds of mou.

Circulation of false rumors on the land-reform plans and joining up with KMT special agents have been frequent practices.

The authorities of both East China and Central and South China and of many of the provinces have issued stringent orders for the punishment of these crimes. Some flagrant violators have been executed.

It is apparent, however, that many local authorities and cadres have taken a complacent attitude toward these matters, many of the agricultural associations are inefficient and multitudes of the people do not understand the land-reform law. Education and propaganda work must be pushed forward more rapidly than in the past.

ABSENTEE LANDOWNERS MAY REGISTER BY MAIL -- Ho-fei, Huan-pei Jih-pao 19 Oct 50

To answer questions asked of the Land Reform Committee of the East China Military and Administrative Committee concerning land registration by absentee landowners, the following general principles have been outlined by the committee.

The announcement of the Land Reform Committee concerning land registration, known as T'u-tzu No 1, applies only in areas where land reform is going on during the present autumn and winter (1950-51) or where it will be carried out later.

Registrants of rural lands should register with the hsiang authorities or the equivalent authorities concerned. If the land lies in different hsiangs, registration should be made for each parcel with the authorities of each hsiang concerned.

The following information should be given for each parcel of land:

1. Name of owner
2. Number of members in family (distinguishing between those resident where the land is located and those resident elsewhere).
3. Occupation
4. Residence address.
5. Total amount of land in the given hsiang and its location (differentiating between those parcels self-cultivated and those rented to others for cultivation).
6. Owner's classification [landlord, wealthy farmer, middle-class farmer, poor farmer, farm laborer].

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The above information should be provided for each parcel of land and sent to the various authorities having jurisdiction. In case changes have occurred in the jurisdiction of local areas which control the land, and which the owner is unable to determine clearly, minute information should be provided as to the boundaries of the parcel which will aid in its identification; and the registration report should be sent to the proper hsien authorities.

All persons owning rural land in East China, regardless of their class, must speedily submit their land registration reports in accordance with the provisions of the above-mentioned land registration announcement.

The classification of each rural absentee landowner shall be democratically decided upon, according to the information on his land-registration report, by the peasants' village meeting or peasants delegates under the leadership of the hsiang authorities in accord with the principles of classification laid down by the Administration Council of the Central government. Each person shall be treated as the law provides for his class.

Workers and government employees needing letters of attestation for their registration reports should secure them from their local industrial labor union, in the case of industrial workers, or from the competent government authorities, in the case of government employees. Such letters of attestation should include the following information: the attester's occupation, number of members of family with him, and income from his occupation.

[No provision is indicated for the self-employed to procure letters of attestation.]

LAND REFORM TO BE CARRIED OUT IN NORTHWEST -- Shanghai, Hsin-wen Jih-pao, 13 Oct 50

Sian, 12 October (Hsin-hua) -- The authorities of the Northwest have already stipulated that land reform shall be carried out this fall and winter in parts of Shensi, Kansu, and Ningsia. The preparatory work is practically completed.

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